(a) whether it is a fact that due to mining work in Makrana (Rajasthan), there is a grave danger to railway tracks, as appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken to avert the situation; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any survey for locating such situation in other areas also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The danger arose due to unauthorized mining on Makrana-Parbatsar branch line. No rail, traffic is allowed on this line at present. Railway pursued the matter in High Court, Jodhpur to restrain unauthorized mining and also pursued with Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 3.93 crore has been deposited by Sangmarmar Khan Vikas Samiti for alternate alignment of this branch line.

(c) Regular inspections of all Railway affecting works (activities or structures around Railway track which may affect Railway track) are undertaken by Railway officials at periodical intervals and remedial action taken whenever required.

Railway Claims Tribunal

685. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claim settlement cases pending with Railway Claims Tribunals, zone-wise;

(b) the time likely to be taken to clear the pending claims; and

(c) the details of the measures taken and policy guidelines framed for speedy settlement of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No. of cases pending as on 30.6.03:

Name of the zone	Name of the Bench No. of pending	cases
North Zone	Delhi	891
	Chandigarh	664
	Lucknow	1356
	Ghaziabad	929
	Gorakhpur	2440
	Total	6280
East Zone	Calcutta	4671
	Patna	3931
	Guwahati	3480
	Bhubaneshwar	382
	Total	12464
West Zone	Mumbai	1332
	Bhopal	1145
	Ahmedabad	945
	Jaipur	450
	Nagpur	61
	Total	3933
South Zone	Chennai	329
	Secunderabad	1275
	Emakulam	360
	Bangalore	353
	Total	2317
	Grand Total	24994

(b) RCT is a judicial body and follows procedure for hearing of settlement of claims cases as provided for in the RCT Act. No time frame, therefore, can be prescribed for finalisation of pending claims in RCT.

(c) 1. RCT (Procedure) Rules have been amended for speedy settlement of claims filed in RCT. The amendments provide for—

(a) Facility for the claimant to file the claim for accident cases at where the claimant normally resides, originating station, destination

station as against only at place of occurrence earlier.

(b) Number of adjournments in each case restricted to three.

(c) RCT to pronounce an order within 21 days after the date of final hearing.

(d) To provide information with regard to status of pending cases and judgments of the Tribunal on internet, the functioning of RCT is being computerized.

2. Administrative measures in regard to expeditious settlements of Accident cases—

(i) An accident cell is set up under the Chief Claims officer which monitors all cases of death, injury for providing relief.

(ii) Accident cell monitors the preparation of written Statements and supporting documents to facilitate early settlement of cases.

(iii) After the decree has been passed, a copy of the judgment is obtained and the cheque is prepared at the earliest.

3. Administrative measures in regard to Goods claims.

(i) Single window clearance for major commodities for expeditious settlement of claims cases.

(ii) Officers of Claims office and Accounts interact regularly to remove bottlenecks for early claims settlement.

(iii) Target time is laid down for claims settlement of different commodities and efforts made to process the cases within the time frame.

(iv) Regular meetings held with important customers for finalizing their claims.

Conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj-Bareilly section

686. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the section of Kanpur-Kasganj-Agra and Kasganj-Bareilly metre rail lines have been converted into broad gauge; and